

Multimedia RFP Questions & Answers

Question:

(Paraphrased) As questions and answers will be posted on the MDOT website for all possible vendors, including those possibly competing for this project; how does MDOT plan to give answers to proprietary and secure questions which might impact the responses of those competitor(s)?

Answer:

While we can appreciate the issue being raised, it has always been the state's policy to post questions and answers to RFPs so that all potential bidders have access to the same basic information. The process to ask questions about a RFP is there to "clarify" the RFP's requirements and, thereby, allow potential bidders to prepare a proposal that is most in line with what the RFP is requesting. We would expect any potential bidder to take care in wording their answers so that they do not openly share proprietary information.

Question:

Could you please forward blue prints or some similar lay out of each Welcome Center including the Detroit/Mexicantown Center?

Answer:

For the initial purpose of this RFP, we do not feel that detailed layouts of each Welcome Center are needed by potential bidders to develop an adequate proposal. We do expect that the winning bidder will make a site-by-site personal survey with MDOT and Travel Michigan representatives to discuss the final number of monitors and their placement at each Welcome Center. Let it suffice for the purpose of this RFP that in general terms, the larger centers are 7,000 sq. ft. - 10,000 sq. ft. and are:

- New Buffalo
- Monroe
- Clare
- Coldwater
- Detroit/Mexicantown (5,000 sq.ft.)

The remaining centers are 2,000 sq. ft or less in the main building.

The centers in Ironwood, Port Huron, Dundee, and Sault Ste.Marie have their restrooms in a separate building from their literature/office building.

Question:

Please advise if the specific contents of the winning RFP are made public.

Answer:

After the award of the contract, information (except financial pertaining to the selected vendor) will be subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act.

Question:

Do all sites current(ly) offer a wireless Local Area Network, if so, what is the operational speed of data download/upload over the wireless LAN?

Answer:

None of the centers currently have a LAN in place. All centers currently have a 512K line connection for Internet use. There are also no plans to put a wireless network in any of the Welcome Centers.

Question:

What are the makes and models of network hardware in the Welcome Centers?

Answer:

Every Welcome Center has 1 or more Dell Optiplex GX620 3.2GHz desktop(s). AT&T provides the routers connected to the 512K lines. That router is connected to a SOHO switch. All PCs are wired to the SOHO switch.

Question:

Please specify manufacturer, model numbers, types of network equipment currently in use.

Answer:

Every Welcome Center has 1 or more Dell Optiplex GX620 3.2GHz desktop(s). AT&T provides the routers connected to the 512K lines. That router is connected to a SOHO switch. All PCs are wired to the SOHO switch.

Question:

Who are your ISP providers?

Answer:

The State network is not a consideration for this RFP. The selected vendor will not be able to plug into the State network, so our responses regarding existing network capabilities should indicate that there are no network connections currently available to them. If they wish to establish a link to a service provider through cable, satellite, etc., that option is available to them at their expense. If they wish, for some reason, to establish a local network within the visitor center, they can do that but it cannot plug into the State network in any way.

As far as access to State information, we are willing to work with them to provide them information electronically or we are willing to provide them with publicly available web links to access the information.

Question:

Is this wireless LAN connection fire-walled?

Answer:

There is no wireless network provided by the state at each of the Welcome Centers. There are no plans to place a wireless network within each Welcome Center.

Question:

Do you have a network diagram of your network LAN, if so may we have a copy?

Answer:

There is no diagram of the State's Network that can be made available to vendors.

Question:

Are there currently security cameras in the lobby areas of the Welcome Centers?

Answer:

No

Question:

What time frame has been set for the conclusion and awarding of this contract?

Answer:

No strict time frame is in place. However, MDOT and Travel Michigan plan to proceed quite expeditiously in the reviewing of all proposals, the selection of the winning proposal, and the completion of a contract. It is hoped that this contract finalization will be completed by March 30, 2007 or sooner.

Question:

We are able to provide US financials for two years. Would this significantly impact our selection given the requirement for three years accounting information?

Answer:

The information provided by the vendor will be used to assess the financial viability of the firm.

Question:

Does a maximum page count apply, and if so what is the maximum page count?

Answer:

There is no maximum (or minimum) page count specified. We would certainly expect that the bidder would prepare his/her proposal in the most concise, but thorough, manner. As noted on page 5 of the RFP under "Quality of Proposal," part of the evaluation process is for the "quality of information submitted...based upon the completeness, relevance, conciseness, and organization of the material submitted."